

EXPLAINING DISPOSITIONS

JUVENILE COURT

A dispositional hearing is held to determine the outcome of a juvenile case. This hearing is held after an adjudicatory hearing has taken place. At an adjudicatory hearing, the minor either admits the charges alleged in the Petition for Adjudication or the judge may or may not find the charges alleged in the Petition to be true following testimony in the case. Before the dispositional hearing, the Juvenile Court Services Department prepares a dispositional report on the minor. This report includes information on his/her family, school attendance and grades, employment (if any), facts of the present offense and any past involvement with the juvenile court. This report will also contain an "Offense Effect on Victim" statement. This statement details any damage figures or medical expenses as well as any effect the offense had on the victim and/or family. The judge and attorneys representing the State and the minor receive a copy of this report prior to the hearing.

At the Dispositional Hearing the judge will make the disposition based on what he or she determines is best for the community. The judge may hear recommendations from parents, lawyers, or others involved in the case as well as read the dispositional report.

The following explains possible dispositions the judge may order:

PROBATION

When a juvenile is placed on probation, he/she has been adjudicated delinquent and made a ward of the court. The minor is required to follow certain rules ordered by the judge. The minor is monitored by a probation officer twice a month, once a month, every six weeks or more often if needed, based on the individual's needs. These rules may include attending school, substance abuse treatment, restitution, community service work, counseling, etc.

COURT SUPERVISION

This is very similar to probation; however, the minor has not been adjudicated delinquent.

The minor is monitored by a probation officer and is required to follow certain rules. However, unlike probation, if the supervision period is successfully completed, the minor will not have a court record. The judge can put a minor on supervision if he/she is found to be either in need of supervision or delinquent.

CONDITIONAL DISCHARGE

A minor who has been placed on conditional discharge has been adjudicated delinquent and made a ward of the court. Usually, a probation period has already been completed, but the minor may still have a requirement of probation to complete such as restitution payments or GED classes.

EXTENDED DAY PROGRAM

This may be ordered as part of a minor's probation as an alternative to secure detention. The minor reports to the program immediately after school and receives tutoring. The minor is responsible for purchasing groceries, cooking dinner, and attends 90 minutes of group session.

ORDER OF PROTECTIVE SUPERVISION / PROTECTION

Parent(s) of the minor may be ordered to participate in counseling, substance abuse treatment, or insuring the minor attend school. An Order of Protection may also be a general order that the parents cooperate fully with the court on the minor's behalf.

TRANSFER OF GUARDIANSHIP

The judge can transfer guardianship of the minor to a private individual (such as a foster parent), to a state agency (such as Department of Children and Family Services), or to McLean County Juvenile Court Services. Once guardianship has been transferred to a state agency or Juvenile Court Services, they have the authority to place the juvenile in a foster home, childcare facility, or treatment facility.

DETENTION

If the minor was found delinquent, the judge can order up to 30 days of dispositional detention. Detention is basically placing the minor in a secured, locked facility. A minor under 10 may not be held in a locked facility.

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

If the minor is over the age of 13 and committed a delinquent act for which an adult could be put in jail, the judge can send him/her to the Juvenile Division of the Illinois Department of Corrections. The judge does not set a time period for the sentence. This time period can range from a few months up to the minor's 21st birthday.

RESTITUTION

Restitution is the payment of some or all of the victim's losses suffered as a direct result of the crime. The judge must order restitution and the minor's Juvenile Court Services officer monitors payments. If the juvenile fails to make restitution payments or if the judge fails to order restitution, the victim has the option of pursuing the matter in small claims court. Parents of the minor, unless specifically ordered by the court, are not responsible for making the minor's restitution payments.

RETURN OF PROPERTY

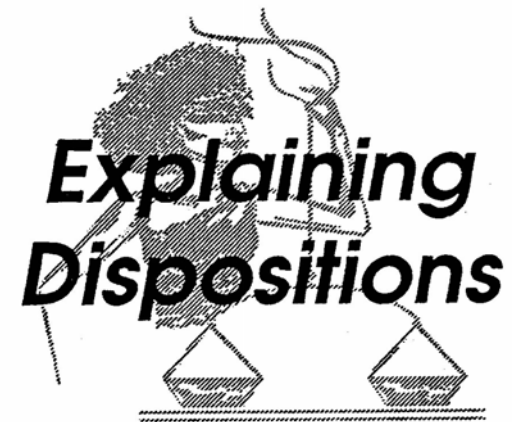
Property may be released 30-60 days after the disposition hearing if there is no appeal. If the case is appealed, it could be much longer. If property is being held for evidence, contact the Victim/witness Service to help arrange for its return.

This is a brief explanation of how certain areas of the Juvenile Court System operate. It may not explain how a particular case was handled. Further information may be obtained by calling the Victim/Witness Service at (309) 888-5416.

The Victim/Witness Service would like to thank you for your time and cooperation on this case.

DIRECTORY

Law & Justice Center	888-5001
Victim/Witness	888-5415
Juvenile Coordinator.....	888-5416
State's Attorney's Office.....	888-5400
Juvenile Court Services	888-5370
Adult Court Services	888-5360
McLean County Jail	888-5065
Small Claims Division	888-5330
Bloomington Police Dept.....	434-2594
Normal Police Dept.	454-9535
McLean Co. Sheriff's Office	888-5019
ISU Police Dept.....	438-8631
Dept. of Children and Family Services	828-0022
Child Abuse Hotline	800-252-2873
Center for Human Services.....	827-5351
PATH	827-4005
Project Oz	827-0377
After-hours crisis number	827-0378
Children's Foundation	827-0374
Catholic Charities	829-6307
Youthbuild McLean County	827-7507
Big Brothers/Big Sisters	828-1870



McLean County Victim/Witness Service

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